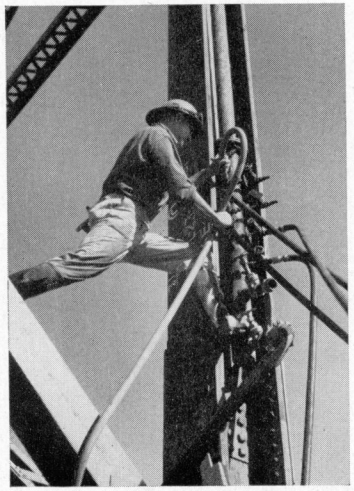
Coulee Dam's War Power Production Sets World Record

SIX hydroelectric generators, rated at 108,000 kilowatts each, the largest in the world, are now operating. Three more of these generators are now being manufactured by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation, and are to be installed at Grand Coulee during 1947 and 1948. This will complete the installation in the west powerhouse (nine generators). At a later date nine more generators are to be installed in the east powerhouse, making a total of 18.

Two hydroelectric generators, rated at 75,000 kilowatts each, designed for use at the Shasta Dam in northern California, were temporarily installed in the west powerhouse at Grand Coulee Dam for a period of three years, 1943 to 1946.



A world record for power production from a single powerhouse was established at Grand Coulee during 1944. The six permanently installed generators, plus the two temporarily installed machines from Shasta Dam, produced a total of more than 22,000,000 kilowatt hours in a single day, and more than 600,000,000 kilowatt hours in a month. The greater of part the power produced was used by war industries. Forty per cent of the nation's aluminum, during the war years, was produced with power from Grand Coulee. The huge plant at Hanford, Washington, which produced the atomic bomb, was supplied with power from Grand Coulee. $165,000,000 in new industries have been established in the Pacific Northwest as the result of great quantities of low-priced power obtainable from Grand Coulee Dam.

Power produced at Grand Coulee is transmitted and distributed by the Bonneville Power Administration, marketing agent for both Grand Coulee and Bonneville Dam power. Revenue derived from the sale of power at Grand Coulee exceeded $40,000,000 during the first five years.

Irrigation Project Now Under Way

Construction of the irrigation project is just getting under way. The work is to be done by private contract and it will be 1950 before irrigation water reaches any sizable acreage of land. It is estimated that from 10 to 20 years will be required to irrigate the entire one million acres. The rate of development will depend upon congressional appropriations and the demand for the land by prospective settlers.

It is expected that upon completion, 17,000 family-size farms will have been developed, ranging in size from 40 to 160 acres, and producing diversified crops.